STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
HOTEL SIDDHARTA
NAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2522999

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 65 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Tuesday 28th April 2020
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Critical SARI patient recovers from COVID-19

Likely to be discharged from hospital today

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (MTY&BCT)- In a positive development, P-273, a 72-year-old male from Nazarbad and the first **Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI)** case who was tested positive for Coronavirus in Mysuru has been declared fit for discharge and is likely to be released from the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road this evening along with seven other positive patients who have been cured.

The SARI case was worrisome to the District Administration as he did not have any foreign travel history and the patient had several other co-morbidities and was in a critical state. Doctors and nursing staff at the COVID-19 Hospital need to be commended for this effort, said Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar this morning.

He was speaking to reporters at an event in city this morning after accepting Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), N-95 masks and sanitisers that were donated to the Mysuru District Administration by Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda through Chamaraja MLA L. Nagendra.

The designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road in city.

Many co-morbidities

"P-273 was admitted on Mar. 14 and he was in a critical condition with lots of complications. He was in the ICU and was monitored 24X7 by a team of doctors and cardiac specialists. He was treated based on the guidance provided by e-rounds (online networking sessions of doctors from NIMHANS, Bengaluru, introduced by the State Government) and telemedicine network that was linked to KRS Road Hospital," he said.

High Flow Oxygen Therapy

Disclosing further details, the DC said, "The patient was treated without ventilator as in many cases like in Western countries, ventilator support was the reason for many COVID casualties. As advised in e-rounds, the SARI patient was treated using High Flow Oxygen Therapy through his mask in the Critical Care Unit at the COVID-19 Hospital. The patient's condition showed remarkable improvement and today he will be discharged," the DC said.

Based on the request by the 72-year-old patient, he will be shifted to a private hospital where an isolation ward will be set up. "Initially we were worried as the patient had many co-morbidities along with COVID-19. Now all his tests have proven negative and the team of doctors and nurses at the hospital must be complimented for this remarkable achievement," he added.

Round-the-clock work at VRDL

On the overall situation in Mysuru District, the Deputy Commissioner said that the growth rate of COVID-19 in Mysuru, which has the second-highest number of cases in the State after Bengaluru, has indicated a slowdown in new infections. The number of active cases was dropping with improvement in the recovery rate and patients being discharged from the hospital.

(See SARI on page 6)

From May 1, shell out Rs. 100 penalty for not wearing masks

Spitting in public too will attract a fine of Rs. 100

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (BCT)- The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) seems to be bracing up for a systematic exit plan from the lockdown after an official announcement is made by the Centre. As a first step, it has made face masks mandatory from May 1.

If you are stepping out of your house after May 1 without a mask, you are liable to pay a fine of Rs. 100. The MCC that has already taken measures to ensure social distancing is maintained in public places to check the spread of COVID-19, is tightening rules.

MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde has issued a press release where he has quoted the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs dated Apr. 15 to be followed against the pandemic. According to the directions, it is mandatory for everyone to wear face masks in public places and workplaces. A fine of Rs. 100 will be levied in case of violation.

The MCC will tie-up with the Police to levy fine and the rules have been enforced under the Municipal Corporation Act 1976 rule 431. Exclusive teams have been set up at all the Nine Zones of the MCC to catch offenders.

The Corporation said that it would strictly enforce the usage of face masks by people to avoid the spread of the disease. It said that any person disobeying the direction would be deemed to have committed an offence.

Also, spitting in public too will attract a fine of Rs. 100. It may be recalled here that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his last address to the nation, had asked everyone to give up the habit of spitting in public. Now the MCC is enforcing the rule with a penalty.

Forest Minister inspects Mysuru Zoo

Lauds Zoo staff for maintaining cleanliness

Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni seen explaining about an animal during the Forest Minister's visit to the Zoo yesterday.

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (MTY&KS)- Forest Minister Anand Singh, who inspected the Mysuru Zoo yesterday morning, lauded the efforts of the Zoo staff for taking necessary steps to protect the health and lives of animals and birds housed in the Zoo in these trying times.

Anand Singh, who had been to Kabini Backwaters in Gundre Range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve the previous day, stayed overnight in city. He visited the Zoo yesterday morning and conducted inspection for about two hours.

Going around the Zoo in a battery-operated vehicle, he collected information about various birds and animals housed there. He also inspected the Zoo Hospital, kitchen, food and fodder store room and other places. He lauded the efforts of the Zoo staff in taking precautionary steps to prevent the spread of Bird Flu and Coronavirus at the Zoo.

Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi, Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni and Assistant Director Dr. K.R. Ramesh, provided information about the precautionary steps taken in the Zoo. They also informed the Minister that the Zoo has been taking various steps to protect the lives of animals and birds on a routine basis and added that disinfectant was being sprayed to contain the spread of any diseases.

The Zoo officials informed the Minister that all the staff have been instructed to compulsorily wear face mask, use sanitiser and maintain social distancing. Also the vehicles carrying food were being sanitised upon their entry to the Zoo.

Mysuru Circle Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) T. Heeralal and others accompanied the Minister.

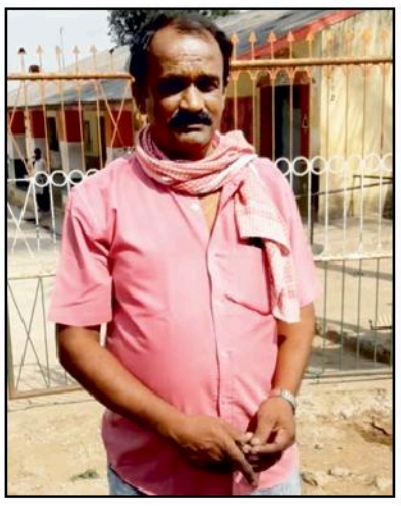
Ajit Kulkarni briefing on feeding fruits and vegetables to herbivorous animals.

Anand Singh taking a look at the chick in an incubator.

Minister Anand Singh inspecting food grains at the store room as ZAK Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi, Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni, Assistant Director Dr. K.R. Ramesh and others look on.

Girijan Ashram School Warden caught

while stealing food articles meant for tribals



K.A. Mohan (Warden).

Eggs and other food items stocked in his van.

Periyapatna, Apr. 28 (Ramesh & KS)- The Warden of the Government Girijan Ashram School at Doddahosur, near Rani Gate in Periyapatna was caught while allegedly trying to steal food items meant for tribals in his four-wheeler yesterday afternoon.

The Warden, who was caught red-handed with the food items, is K.A. Mohan. He has been working as the Warden since about three months.

Yesterday about 3.30 pm, Mohan, who came to the School in his Maruti Omni van (KA-12-P-0026), loaded the van with a large quantity of food items such as rice bags, dal, cooking oil, sugar, jaggery, eggs etc. that was to be distributed to the tribals and was trying to leave the school premises.

But the villagers stopped the van and informed Bylakuppe Police, who rushed to the spot and seized the food items besides taking Mohan to custody.

Meanwhile, Tribal leader Shantharaj said that following lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, groceries and other food items sufficient for three months, provided by the Government to be distributed among the tribals was stocked in the school. Though some had received the ration, many were yet to receive the same, he said.

He further said that Bylakuppe Police, based on the complaint from the villagers, have registered a case and initiated legal action against Warden Mohan.

Police Constable's wife ends life with daughter

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (RK&KS)- A Police Constable's wife along with her five-year-old daughter committed suicide by hanging at the Police Quarters in Hebbal on Apr. 26.

The deceased are Vidyashree (30), wife of Harish, who is serving at City Police Control Room and their daughter Chinmayi (5).

A native of Rathnapuri in Hunsur taluk, Vidyashree was given in marriage to Harish, a native of Hassan, about seven years ago and the couple along with their daughter were residing at the Police Quarters in Hebbal here.

Harish, who was on duty on Sunday night, came home the next day morning and knocked the door several times but did not receive any response from his wife or his daughter. Sensing something wrong, Harish sought the help of his neighbours and broke open the door only to find his wife and daughter hanging.

Hebbal Inspector Cheluvegowda and staff, who rushed to the spot, informed the matter to the parents of Vidyashree, conducted mahazar upon their arrival and shifted the body to MMC&RI mortuary. After post-mortem, the bodies were handed over to the family members yesterday afternoon.

Inspector Cheluvegowda said that though it is suspected that family feud may be the reason for Vidyashree to take the extreme step, the exact cause for the deaths is yet to be known.

VOICE OF THE READER

COVID-19 Lessons: Allow Tier-II and Tier-III Cities to grow

Sir,

We have been under lockdown since March 25, 2020, for good. Our Prime Minister was clever enough to put the entire country under lockdown very quickly. We all must thank the PM for the timely act.

During lockdown period, till now, we observed that most of the deaths due to COVID-19 have occurred in big cities across the world. For example New York in US, London in UK etc. These cities are busiest and known for commercial activities. That means they are highly populated places.

Moreover, the Western countries have high usage of International flights. I came to know that even China, the source country of COVID-19, had a number of daily flights to both Europe and US. That's how the spread of virus has been very intensive in those places.

One lesson that we can learn from COVID-19 is that we should not allow big cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai etc., to further grow exponentially. Instead, the Government should give license to start new industries or businesses in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

By doing so, our educated people can settle in their home district, rather than moving to big cities in search of jobs. Places like Mysuru have all the infrastructure to accommodate new industries and businesses, but the apathy of the Government is not letting it to grow. I hope, at least from now on, the State and the Central Governments come up with strict policies for the growth of Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

— R. Prakash

Kanakadasa Nagar

27.4.2020

KSOU Competitive Exams Training Centre launches online classes

KSOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar launched the facility at his office on Monday in the presence of Registrar Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi, Finance Officer Khader Pasha and Centre Coordinator Jainahalli Satyanarayana Gowda.

After the launch yesterday, first online class was conducted by Siddarthanagar Government First Grade College Assistant Professor Prasanna Kumar. Students from across the State took part in the classes and expressed happiness.

For details, connect Ph: 0821-2515944 or visit: https://onlineclass.ksoumysuru.ac.in/b/coa-k7k-z2p

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (PM&BNR)- Many educational institutions have resorted to online classes to help students during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Similarly, Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) Competitive Examinations' Training Centre too on Monday launched online classes for the benefit of those preparing for the competitive exams. The KSOU had earlier launched a similar system for its regular courses.

KSOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar launched the facility at his office yesterday in the presence of Registrar Prof. Lingaraja Gandhi, Finance Officer Khader Pasha and Centre Coordinator Jainahalli Satyanarayana Gowda.

Acting on the VC's directive to ensure continuity in coaching to the candidates, the Centre developed an online curriculum and launched classes for the first batch of candidates appearing for the K-SET examination.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Vidyashankar said the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many sectors, including education. The crisis had also hit the candidates aspiring to crack the competitive examinations in the absence of live classes. The online classes will bridge the gap and the students should make best use of the facility.

Prof. Vidyashankar felt that online education may become common and strengthened in the years ahead. The University has strengthened its network, making best of use of IT resources for continuing classes and keeping in touch with the students.

Registrar Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi said many Universities in the country had launched online classes and KSOU was among the few or could be the first to start online classes to train candidates in competitive examinations.

Centre Coordinator Jainahalli Satyanarayana Gowda said live classes for the candidates will resume only after the situation becomes normal but online classes will continue as usual for their benefit.

Migrant workers in K.R. Nagar return to native places

Mysuru, Apr.28 (PM&DM)- A total of 74 migrant workers in K.R. Nagar taluk of the district, most of whom were from North Karnataka, who were stranded at their workplace due to the nationwide lockdown, returned to their native places in KSRTC buses on Sunday, thanks to the efforts of the District Administration.

With the Union Government easing lockdown curbs allowing struck migrant workers across the country to return to their native places, the State Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar had written a letter to all the DC of the State to make arrangements for sending back stranded migrant labourers to their native places.

Following the direction, the District Administration on Sunday sent back a total of 74 migrant workers including 10 women, who were housed in Bherya BCM Hostel Shelter Camp, in four KSRTC buses.

While two buses departed for Vijayapura, one bus was meant for Koppal-Raichur and the other for Bengaluru-Kolar.

The District Administration ensured that all the departing migrant workers wore face masks and hand gloves and social distancing was followed all through the journey, with only one worker allowed to sit in a seat row.

Assistant Labour Commissioner A.C. Thammanna, K.R.Nagar Tahsildar Manjula and other officials were present.

Obituary

R. Jayashankar

Mysuru, Apr. 28- R. Jayashankar (55), an electrical contractor and a resident of Hebbal 2nd Stage, passed away yesterday in city. He leaves behind his wife, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Hebbal Burial Grounds this morning.

Keethianda C. Saraswathi

Keethianda C. Saraswathi (Ballachanda), wife of Keethianda Chengappa and a resident of Alanahalli, passed away this morning at her residence. She was 90.

She leaves behind her husband, son Advocate K.C. Pradyumna, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Lockdown shadow looms large over Mysore Varsity Centenary Convocation

Mysuru, Apr.28 (RK&DM)- The unprecedented COVID-19 nationwide lockdown seems to have cast a dark shadow on the University of Mysore's Centenary Convocation.

After having planned the milestone event for March or April 2020, the University had started correspondence with the President's Office and the PMO for getting their dates to address the Centenary Convocation.

Even the Governor, who is the Chancellor of all State-run Universities, was looking forward for confirmation of dates. But the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, followed by nationwide lockdown, has thrown everything out of gear and jeopardised the University's efforts of hosting a grand Convocation.

The lockdown has also shattered the dreams of thousands of students who were hoping to receive their degrees at the Centenary Convocation of the prestigious University of Mysore

The University of Mysore

(UoM), which only a couple of years ago, held its Centenary celebrations in a memorable manner, with the participation of the then President and Vice-President of India and a host of other dignitaries.

Now with Mysuru being declared as a COVID-19 hotspot, there is little chances of the Convocation taking place at least for a few more months.

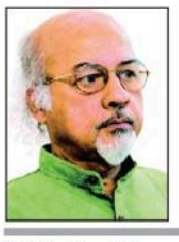
Speaking to *Star of Mysore* in this regard, UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar said that the University had great plans for holding the Centenary Convocation and preparations for the same had begun in right earnest. But the outbreak of the deadly virus and the subsequent lockdown has thrown all the plans to wind right now.

Yet, we are not disappointed and will resume our preparations once the lockdown ends. As this year's Convocation is the 100th one, we are working out plans to make it extraordinary, he pointed out.

"Although it may not be possible to invite the Prime Minister under the present circumstances, I will make all efforts to realise my dream of inviting the President or Vice-President of India and thus make the Centenary Convocation a memorable event", he said.

Continuing, Prof. Hemantha Kumar said that once the lockdown ends, the University will get its Budget approved at the Academic Council meeting and chalk out measures for improving the Academic system.

The world to end in 30 years ?



Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

The story is that a man used to walk up and down London's glamorous Oxford Street with a placard proclaiming "the end is nigh." The idea was to encourage people to repent their sins and prepare for the imminent apocalypse. What was only a spiritual note of caution then has now acquired real-life validity, thanks to the Coronavirus. An Australian think-tank has predicted that human civilisation as we know it will come to an end in 2050. The end is indeed nigh.

The reason the Australians cited for the catastrophe was climate change, described as the greatest threat to humanity. The upheavals caused by climate change, warned the scientists, could take humanity to "an increasingly chaotic world which would overwhelm societies around the globe." The threat raised by the invisible virus appeared to be a new apocalypse. Actually both are the same.

All past civilisations ended because of climate change. Survival or extinction of life was related to the ice age, the freezing of oceans, the warming of oceans, the rise in sea levels. The phenomenon was visible in India in recent times, too. Unprecedented droughts caused by climate change triggered migration in parts of India last summer. In Tamil Nadu, a BJP leader poured water over a plastic globe as his followers chanted slokas to please the Rain God. Unfortunately, the Rain God did not seem supportive of the party.

It is interesting that all religions see the world ending under a deluge of water, 'Pralaya.' Biblical and Babylonian legends have the Great Deluge as their central theme. So have Tibetan, Sumatran, Mayan and African traditions. They all have one person surviving to keep the cycle of creation going. In India, it will be Vaivasvat Manu who will appear to continue the human legacy. In the Biblical version, it is Noah.

In the Indian tradition, cyclical destruction of the world must occur at the end of the 'Chatur Yuga.' We are at some kind of a trigger point now. This year, 2020, as many as 21 cities in India will run out of ground water. These include Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. By 2030, upto 40 percent of India's population will have no drinking water according to an India Spend estimate.

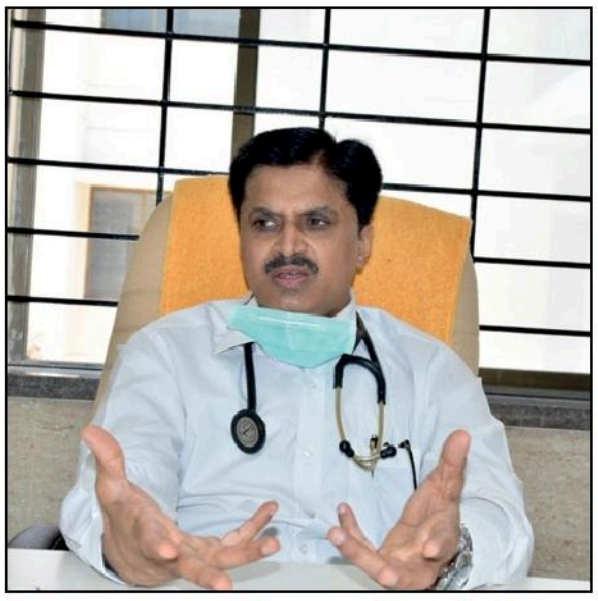
Not that 'Pralaya' is the only way that civilisation can die. There are theories that the end will come in a fire that devours the whole universe. Other theories include nuclear war and a meteor crashing into earth and turning it into smithereens. But the Deluge remains a prominent fixture, some theories predicting that it could be triggered by an earthquake or by multiple tsunamis caused by global warming.

The nuclear war theory has lost its charm. Such a war can of course wipe out what we see as civilisation, but the war-mongers themselves will be wiped out in the process. That reality has acted as a deterrent. It was a fashion in the white man's world to see desperadoes like Saddam Hussain and Muammer Gaddafi as starting nuclear wars. But it was a desperado named George Bush who came close to it, falsely claiming that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction. As everyone knows, George Bush's follies wrought such havoc that Iraq is still a smouldering cauldron, more than one generation of its citizenry lost in the netherworld of hopelessness.

The world can be virtually destroyed without nuclear blasts. Look at the way Nature has gone crazy. We were all told that India was being destroyed by drought: Soil drying up, rivers disappearing, poor people migrating to safer areas. Then suddenly the monsoon staged a delayed entrance. But it was accompanied by the eccentricity of drought conditions growing even in areas that got suddenly flooded. Has Nature become vengeful?

Let's not ignore the forgotten messages of history. Literature of the Tamil Sangam period refers to a sunken country stretching from Kanyakumari to Australia. What made it disappear into the sea? Uncontrolled exploitation? Bartruhari's poem is clear. "A hundred years complete our span / And half of that is passed in night / childhood and old age devour the half / of what belongs to light." All that we are left with is half of half. And what do we do with that? Bartruhari answers: "The rest is torn with parting pangs of ceaseless toil / what profit is our human life unstable as a wave." If we still don't get the message, we should go back to 'Bhagavad Gita' and listen to Krishna saying: "Time, I am, the Destroyer of All."

Lockdown downs cardiac cases in city



Less stress, home food, less air pollution and no smoking is the reason, says Jayadeva Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. K.S. Sadananda

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (MTY&KS)-COVID-19 lockdown has given room for healthy habits among people due to which incidents of heart attack and heart-related ailments have come down drastically, said Dr. K.S. Sadananda, Medical Superintendent of Jayadeva Hospital, Mysuru.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Dr. Sadananda said that many people were suffering from heart attack due to stress, consumption of junk food and smoking among others. Earlier, 50 cases of heart attack and 20 massive heart attack cases used to come to the hospital and also more than 500 patients to the Out Patient Department (OPD), he said and added that the cases have been reduced by 60 percent now due to lockdown.

He said that the reduction in the number of heart-related cases was due to the people staying at home, spending quality time with their families, less stress, more rest, eating healthy food at home and reduction in smoking among other such habits.

Consultation through telephone

Dr. Sadananda said that more than 400 people had undergone angioplasty procedure from January till date, who have to come once in a month for check-up initially. But following lockdown and restrictions in vehicular movements, the hospital staff are calling them over the phone and enquiring their health condition, he added.

Phone calls are also being made to those who are unable to come for their health check-up and suggestions are being given to continue the medicines which are prescribed to them earlier, he said and added that there are wrong assumptions that the medicines prescribed to them was only for one month and stop taking the medicines after a month. Hence phone calls are being made to patients and suggestions and guidance to continue the prescribed medicines are given to them.

Continuing, Dr. Sadananda said that awareness is being created among the patients not to come to the hospital for routine check-ups as there are chances of Coronavirus spreading and added that requests are being made to the patients to come to the hospital only if there is any emergency. A banner in this regard is also put up in the front of the hospital, he said.

The 350-bed Jayadeva Hospital has 55 heart specialists and more than 650 staff including nurses, lab technicians and security personnel among others.

Patients from Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts are dependent on Jayadeva Hospital for heart treatment. There are facilities such as two Operation Theatres, three Cathlabs, four Intensive Care Units (ICU) and 120 beds in General Ward. Three Open Heart Surgeries are performed in the two Operation Theatres and 40-50 angiogram and angioplasty procedures are performed in the three cathlabs, Dr. Sadananda said.

Two arrested for poaching deer

Accused Harish and Mani seen with the Forest officials and the seized meat of the deer, which they had hunted illegally.

Virajpet, Apr. 28 (KS)- The Virajpet Forest Division officials have arrested two persons, who had hunted a deer illegally at Karadigudu village in Virajpet taluk and had stored the meat in their house.

The arrested are 48-year-old P.K. Harish and 56-year-old Mani of Karadigudu.

Acting on a tip off, the Forest officials led by Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Roshni and staff and supervised by Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Shivashankar, raided the house and seized the raw meat, cooked meat, deer legs and a bike. The accused were produced before a Court.

Virajpet Range Forest Officer (RFO) Dileep Kumar, Ammathi Sub-Zone Forest Officer Shivakumar and staff Sachin, Akkamma, Arun, Achaiah, Dileep, Vinod and others took part in the nabbing and seizing operation.

Anil Bhimsen Katti

is new Mysuru District Principal and Sessions Court Judge

Bengaluru, Apr. 28- The Karnataka High Court Registrar-General Raghavendra Badamikar on Monday issued order transferring 23 Principal District and Sessions Judges in the State.

As per the transfer order, Judge Anil Bhimsen Katti, who was serving as Bagalkot Principal District and Sessions Court Judge, has been posted as the new Principal District and Sessions Judge at Mysuru. Judge Katti replaces Judge S.K. Vontigodi, who has been posted as the Registrar of Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal at Bengaluru.

In other transfers related to Mysuru, the city's Fifth Additional District and Sessions Court Judge G.G. Kuruvatti has been posted as the Presiding Officer of Karnataka Wakf Tribunal, while Third Additional District and Sessions Court Judge K.S. Bharath Kumar has been posted as Karnataka High Court Registrar (SS) and First Additional Principal Family Court Judge K.G. Shanthi as the First Additional Principal Judge of Family Court at Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, Mallikarjunagowda, who was serving as Additional Civil and Sessions Judge at 78th City Court in Bengaluru, has been posted as Principal District and Sessions Court Judge at Madikeri, Kodagu, B.G. Ramaa, who was serving as the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge at Virajpet, has been posted as Koppal District Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chandrasekhar Maragur, who was serving as Third Additional District and Sessions Court Judge at Hassan, has been posted as Karnataka High Court Registrar (Infrastructure and Maintenance) at Bengaluru.

KPCC-Mysuru Task Force urges Govt. to save farmers and poor

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (RKB&DM)- The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Mysuru Revenue Division COVID-19 Task Force Committee has urged the Government to come to the rescue of distressed farmers and the poor who are facing a lot of hardship following the COVID-19 nationwide lockdown.

The Committee submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar at his office here on Saturday.

The memorandum urged the Government to remit Rs.5,000 each to the bank accounts of farmers, workers from the unorganised sector and Jan Dhan account holders, directly purchase all farm products and to distribute additional 10 kg rice, 5kg wheat and 3 kg dal to BPL card holders.

The Committee also wanted the Government to announce a special package for MSME sector and all workers coming under the sector, to ensure that all employees working in the private sector get wages for the months of April and May and to see that all public sector banks follow the Central Government directions regarding deferment of loans.

Speaking on the occasion, the Task Force Committee Chairman and former Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy said that the Committee studied the COVID-19 scenario in the eight districts coming under Mysuru Revenue Division - Mysuru, Kodagu, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Chikkamagalur, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi — following which a report was prepared based on the findings of the study. This report highlights the lapses of the Government, he said and added that the report also has several valuable suggestions to the Government for better handling COVID-19 lockdown situation.

The Committee also wanted the Government to ask private clinics and hospitals which have remained shut due to lockdown, to reopen immediately and provide healthcare services to the people as non-COVID-19 patients are finding it difficult to get treatment for their ailments.

Former Chamarajanagar MP R. Dhruvanarayan, MLAs Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah and H.P. Manjunath, MLC R. Dharmasena, former MLAs Vasu and M.K. Somashekhar, District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, City President R. Murthy and others were present.

Cong. demands policy for print media and job security

Mysuru, Apr.28 (PM&DM)- With the print media facing a crisis following the COVID-19 lockdown and the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) dashing off a letter to the Centre seeking announcement of an urgent stimulus package, City Congress leader M. Lakshmana has urged the Government to come up with an exclusive print media and job security policy to bail out the industry from the crisis.

Addressing a press meet at Congress Bhavan near the City Railway Station on Monday, he said that the Government must also announce measures for saving jobs in the print industry, which are under threat due to lockdown. He also wanted the Government to pay Rs.50 lakh as compensation to the families of scribes in case of death due to Coronavirus.

Maintaining that a PIL has been filed in the Karnataka High Court seeking a direction to the Health Department to pay wages to doctors and other medical staff who have not been paid for the past four months, he urged the Government to clear the wages of medical staff who are playing a very critical role in combating the deadly virus.

Alleging that some Banks, Financial Institutions and Insurance Companies were sending messages to borrowers for payment of loan installments in violation of the Government's three-month moratorium, he urged the Government to take a serious look at this matter.

Stating that the Congress has reliable information that the lockdown which is supposed to end on May 3 will be extended further by a fortnight, the Congress leader demanded the Union Government to announce a Rs.25,000 crore special package for the welfare of unorganised working class. He also wanted the State Government to allow sugar factories to start crushing of sugarcane as a special case, in order to save the standing crop from withering.

City Congress President R. Murthy urged the Government not to buckle under the pressure of liquor lobby, which is allegedly pressurising the Government to allow Bars and Restaurants to sell their stocks.

Former Karnataka State Women's Commission Chairperson Manjula Manasa demanded distribution of protection kits to all Pourakarmikas of the State.

District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar too spoke.

Amusement Industry's clarion call for survival

Seeks urgent stimulus to sail out from COVID-19 impact

Mysuru, Apr. 28- Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries (IAAPI), an apex body representing the interests of Amusement Parks, Theme Parks, Water Parks and Indoor Amusement Centre in India, is seeking an urgent stimulus package for Amusement Industry to sail out from the COVID-19 impact as it is generating approximately 80,000 direct employment and contributes to the Govt. exchequer significantly.

Amusement industry forms a major part of social infrastructure, plays a vital role in nation-building as it offers active outdoor recreation for kids, youth and families from middle and lower middle-class strata of the society.

As per the advisory issued by Heeralal Samariya, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, IAAPI has requested all its members not to terminate employees and to pay the wages and salaries of permanent and contractual labours without any deductions for the month of March, 2020 and will continue to do so till the lockdown period.

Ajay Sarin, Chairman, Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries (IAAPI), said, "As a responsible industry, we understand, respect and support the decision of the Government and Local bodies in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 and all amusement parks have been closed. Thus, in view of the same, conducting business in such an environment has become a major concern and industry is now struggling for its survival."

"The industry has lost its biggest peak season (summer season) which generates approximately 45% to 55% EBITDA and will be followed by long off season. After lockdown the amusement industry will be further impacted since families will avoid going to crowded place and travel will be restricted as our industry attract kids, youth and family in large numbers. The Indian amusement industry strives on 75% visitors from middle and lower middle-class strata of the society which will be under tremendous stress post-lockdown," he observed.

Due to suspension of operations as a consequence of the pandemic, amusement park industry is running out of working capital and is finding it difficult to meet its financial obligations such as staff salaries, advance tax, GST, PF, ESI and other State levies, loan interest, installment payments and is on the verge of collapse. Hence, the industry seeks an instant emergency decision to rescue and sail the entire amusement industry from the prevailing turbulent environment.

Critical SARI patient recovers

DC Abhiram G. Sankar seen accepting Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), N-95 masks and sanitisers that were donated to the Mysuru District Administration by Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda through MLA L. Nagendra and District Health Officials are also seen.

(Continued from page 1)

Every day, the state-of-the-art Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) at the Department of Microbiology in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (K.R. Hospital) tests 350 samples and the team there is working in 3 shifts round-the-clock.

"They do not come to limelight and every day they test more than 300 samples. Because of the team, the test rate has increased in Mysuru and we have topped in the State. Earlier, we used to test 150 samples per day but now we are crossing the 300 mark daily as the VRDL is getting samples from Mandya and Kodagu also," said DC.

Adi Shankaracharya remembered

Mysuru, Apr. 28 (PM&BNR)- Amidst COVID-19 lockdown, all the events are confined to be a symbolic affair. Today, nation's greatest philosopher Adi Shankaracharya's birth anniversary was also celebrated in a simple manner by the District Administration in association with the Department of Kannada and Culture, by offering floral tribute to the portrait of Sri Shankaracharya at Shankar Mutt premises near Gun House in city this morning.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar, MCC Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar, MLAs S.A. Ramdas and L. Nagendra, former MLA M.K. Somashekar, Kannada and Culture Assistant Director H. Channappa, Corporators B.V. Manjunath and M.V. Ramprasad, City BJP President T.S. Srivatsa, Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha District President D.T. Prakash and others were present.

Speaking to media on the occasion, Mutt Manager C.S. Yoganand said that the Mutt has so far distributed over 100 ration kits to needy. Apart from that, marking Shankara Jayanti today, 10 Pourakarmikas were given ration kits that include 10 kg rice and other groceries. Also, for the past 10 days, the Mutt has been providing 400 food packets through MCC to the shelterless people.

Rs. 4 lakh donated

On the occasion, Shankar Mutt Dharmadarshi Ramachandra and his family donated Rs. 4 lakh towards Chief Minister Relief Fund. The cheque for the same was handed over to Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	3,903
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	813
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	46
Total samples tested	:	3,402
Samples found negative	:	3,313
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	89
Persons cured / discharged	:	43
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	18
Persons cured / discharged	:	4
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	523
Persons cured / discharged	:	207
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	20
Total active cases in India	:	21,632
Persons cured / discharged	:	6,868
Death toll so far in India	:	934

(Note: Some of Mysuru data are as on Apr. 27. Media bulletin of Apr. 28 unavailable)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.